

The long wait: bureaucracy makes recycling impossible.

A current case in the Müller-Guttenbrunn Group shows how difficult it is to transport recycling material within the EU. The company has been waiting for three years for the necessary papers to start these transports and still waits. The Amstetten recycling pioneer is now working on a European solution.

It's all about transporting old display screen equipment for recycling from A to B - specifically from Amstetten to Bavaria. Exactly three years have passed since the Müller-Guttenbrunn Group (MGG) submitted the application on 16 March 2016. The simple notification request became an endless process, which has not yet been completed.

Over the last three years, MGG has held numerous discussions with the authorities concerned - from the Ministries of the Environment in Austria and Germany to the authorities in Bavaria. The result: a lot of bureaucracy, little movement. MGG Director Christian Müller-Guttenbrunn can hardly believe it, "This situation is simply unacceptable. On the one hand, there are attempts to create a circular economy in Europe. On the other hand, the necessary cross-border transport of recycling material is made impossible, as this example is showing.

A solution is in sight, the first Fast Track Notification is granted.

Without recycling material, a circular economy is unthinkable. The Müller-Guttenbrunn Group is therefore working feverishly with European partners on a solution: Fast-Track Notifications. The proposal foresees that compliant recycling companies register their facilities with the authorities in advance as "pre-consented facilities". This makes it possible to have the necessary notification requests for waste shipments to these plants processed much faster and less bureaucratically.

Such a solution with less bureaucracy would be an important step forward to promote both recycling and the use of secondary raw materials in Europe. It will also free up the competent authorities' manpower to combat real illegal waste shipments. Christian Müller-Guttenbrunn therefore hopes: "This sad anniversary of waiting for three years to get the approval and necessary documents without success still, is reason enough for all parties to make the necessary efforts to find a solution for faster notification procedures for those companies that do everything right. The concept of circular economy literally screams for Fast-Track Notifications".

The first Fast Track Notification from HKS Metals in the Netherlands and MGG Metran in Austria has just been granted and was completed slightly over 3 weeks. This is an enormous improvement, but it was also established that there is still room for improvement and that this processing time can still be reduced.

End of press-release – more detailed information can be found below.

March 20th, 2019.

Press Release Müller-Guttenbrunn Group - Austria



About the Müller-Guttenbrunn Group:

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"Nature knows no waste" is the credo of the Müller-Guttenbrunn Group. With its innovative vision on recycling, the company belongs to the international avant-garde of recycling. Inspired by nature, up to 95% of old electrical appliances or end-of-life cars are recycled into valuable raw materials through high-tech recycling processes. The Müller-Guttenbrunn Group saves around one million barrels of crude oil a year compared to the production of new metals and plastics.

More information about the Müller-Guttenbrunn Group: [click here](#)

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Pictures: ZIP-file attached – Picture credit: Müller-Guttenbrunn Group

More details: the three years wait for a still not granted notification request.

On 16 March 2016, the Müller-Guttenbrunn group submitted a notification request for the transport of End of Life CRT Display equipment from Amstetten to its Lower Bavarian-based MER joint venture specialised in the manual treatment of these CRT displays. Notifications are necessary to prevent the illegal export of hazardous waste to sites where legally correct treatment is not assured. In this case, the Amstetten-based company was required to recycle plastic waste from the recycling process in Bavaria into a second subsidiary of Müller-Guttenbrunn - MGG Polymers in Kematen/Ybbs in Austria. A second notification had to be requested for this transport, which would then be necessary from Bavaria to Austria. Its positive completion was a condition for the completion of the first initial notification request for the transport from Austria to Bavaria. This marked the start of an odyssey for the MGG employees concerned: agreements with the authorities in Lower Bavaria and with the Ministries of the Environment of Austria, Germany, the German Environment Protection Agency and the Free State of Bavaria have remained fruitless to this day and there is still no conclusion in sight 3 years after the original application.

More details: The first "Fast Track Notification" that has just been positively closed.

The Müller-Guttenbrunn Group has been looking for a European solution to this unacceptable situation. Cross-border shipments of waste are essential for recycling companies, especially in small countries such as Austria. For this reason, the North Sea Resources Roundabout (NSRR) has included this case in an "International Green Deal". The NSRR was established by the Netherlands, Great Britain, France and Flanders (Belgium). This initiative aims to promote sustainable growth in the North Sea region by facilitating trade and transport of secondary raw

materials. This Fast-Track Notification project is the fifth case within the NSRR International Green Deals. A working group has been set up to find practical and scalable solutions to the barriers that have been identified. The solution had to be found in a harmonization of national interpretations and in an optimization in the enforcement of EU legislation without the need for new rules or regulations.

The concept of Fast-Track Notifications aims to make the transport of waste to recyclers, who comply with all regulations, simpler and faster within the EU. To this end, Article 14 of the European Waste Shipment Regulation must be applied to enable compliant recyclers to have their facilities acknowledged as "pre-consented" facilities. Significantly simplifying waste shipments to such "pre-approved" facilities will minimize the bureaucratic burden. The aim is to ensure positive processing of such notifications within seven days. The result: faster processing, better economic conditions for these recycling companies and much less effort on the part of the public authorities, freeing up people who can engage in the real illegal shipments.

The NSRR working group identified and worked out the important key issues in several meetings. The first Fast-Track Pilot Notification Project for the delivery of WEEE shredder residue material between the Dutch HKS Metals Group in the Netherlands and MGG Metran in Austria has just been approved and it was granted in over 3 slightly over 3 weeks. This is a huge improvement. During the pilot project it was also established that there is still a lot of improvement potential.

HKS Metals and the Müller-Guttenbrunn Group see this concept as a forward-looking step, especially in view of the planned revision of the EU regulation on waste shipments planned for 2020. Such a review of working methods is urgently needed. MGG shows that in the European recycling industry, words must be followed by deeds to solve the problems that we encounter.

This cooperation with this NSRR Green Deal "Fast Track Notification" project shows that it can be done.

Press Release Müller-Guttenbrunn Group - Austria



Pictures (Credit: Müller-Guttenbrunn Group) – attached as well as ZIP file.



